



Montana Legislative Services Division
Office of the Executive Director

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August 23, 2006

STATE ADMINISTRATION

Exhibit No. 2
Date 2-14-07
Bill No. SR-3

Governor Brian Schweitzer
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Governor Schweitzer:

On behalf of the Legislative Committee charged with the responsibility of submitting names to you for the position of the Commissioner of Political Practices, we submit the following names for your consideration:

Gail Abercrombie
Don Avery
Dennis Unsworth

I have provided Patti Keebler, Board and Commission Advisor, with a complete packet of letters of interest, resumes, and answers to questions posed to each interested person for your information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Byorth Fox".

Susan Byorth Fox
Executive Director

cc: Senator Jon Tester, President of the Senate
Senator Bob Keenan, Senate Minority Leader
Representative Gary Matthews, Speaker of the House
Representative Roy Brown, House Republican Leader
Patti Keebler, Board and Commission Advisor, Office of the Governor

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MONTANA LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES DIVISION

August 22, 2006

Candidate Selection Committee
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena MT 59620

Subject: Commissioner of Political Practices

Committee members, I'm writing to ask for your consideration and your support in seeking a nomination for the Commissioner of Political Practices vacancy. I believe I have the right skills and temperament to keep the mission of the office clearly in focus and serve Montana capably.

Over the past 30-plus years I've learned to work with people from the broadest spectrum of the public. Beginning in my early teens I was trained in the skills and rigor of information analysis and communication while growing up in a newspaper and radio business in rural eastern Montana. I have very good listening skills and the ability to discern what's important, and what's not.

For 16 years beginning in 1984 I managed a communications office and small staff for the Director of Transportation, serving under 5 directors during that time. I'm able to learn quickly, to organize work logically and effectively, and quickly grasp "big picture" issues and needs. I'm level-headed under pressure.

Since 1980 I've managed or consulted professionally on dozens of political and persuasive campaigns and lobbied numerous legislative sessions. In 2004, I managed a successful statewide campaign for Supreme Court Justice.

As a communications and information technology consultant I'm well-versed in the opportunities that technology presents for an office like OPP.

For the past year I've been working with the county election administrators and the Election Bureau at the Secretary of State's office managing a Help America Vote Act (HAVA) project to improve access to Montana's 500+ polling places.

With this combination of experience, skill and temperament I believe I'm well suited to the work of the Office of Political Practices. I'd welcome the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,



Dennis Unsworth
Helena
(406) 410-1313

Dennis Unsworth

PO Box 1616
Helena MT 59624
Phone (406) 410-1313
unsworth@onewest.net

Experience

Since August 2005:

Advocate specialist for the non-profit Montana Advocacy Program, managing a Help America Vote Act (HAVA) program to assist counties making polling places accessible to elderly voters and people with disabilities. Program involves a cooperative effort with county election administrators and commissioners to identify needs, managing a grant program, and working with ADA accessibility guidelines and Montana election law.

Fall 2000 to Fall 2005:

Free-lance and consulting services in public involvement and community outreach, emphasizing public works and public policy. Public involvement plans and strategies, professional media/outreach campaigns, strategy and text for key messages, news media strategy, and communications problem solving.

Fall, 1984 to Fall 2000:

Spokesman and Information Officer for the Montana Department of Transportation. Support to the Director and administrative team in press relations, public relations, and public involvement. Wide ranging communications-related work.

Assignments included strategic and difficult communications and problem solving. Considerable staff management, consultant management and budget experience. Hiring and firing. Maintained extensive state and national news contacts. Interviewed frequently, including live radio and television on-camera interviews. Lobbying. Policy, rules, regulations and legislation. Speeches and presentations.

Since 1980:

Campaign manager, consultant and media strategist—most recently, managing a successful, high-profile statewide campaign for Supreme Court Justice. Campaign development, theme and message identification, budgeting and fundraising, polling/surveys, publications, broadcast publicity and problem solving.

1979 to 1984:

Organizer. Non-profit advocacy, emphasizing grass roots organizational development and public involvement. Field office staff manager. Rules and regulations analysis and secondary research. Legislative strategy and lobbying.

1970 to 1979:

Radio announcer, news director, talk show host and disc jockey. News and editorials, commercials, market reports, community involvement and public service.

Achievement, Service and Awards:

Published a widely-used handbook of business writing. Articles on public involvement published by the Transportation Research Board and American Society of Civil Engineers. Conference speaker. National Transportation Public Affairs awards for publications and video production.

Helena "Try Another Way" (alternative transportation) Task Force founding member. Board of Directors, University of Montana Alumni Association, Community Service Award winner, and past-Chairman, UM Legislative Relations Committee. Founder, state employee ad-hoc committee on naturopathic health care.

Education:

BA, University of Montana School of Journalism — 1978. Scobey High School graduate —1973.

Continuing education: project management, team building, strategic planning, right-to-know and privacy, campaign development and organizing, meeting facilitation, advanced public involvement tools and techniques, federal-aid finance.

Other information:

One child in High School and one in College. Avid bicyclist and musician. Good health. References on request.